

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A recording tape cartridge which is loaded into a drive device from a predetermined loading direction for use, the recording tape cartridge comprising:

a case rotatably accommodating a single reel on which a recording tape is wound, the case having a front wall at a front side thereof in the loading direction and a side wall running along the loading direction, and having a corner portion between the front wall and the side wall, an opening for pulling-out of the recording tape from one end portion of the recording tape being formed at said corner portion; and

a shielding member, disposed within the case so as to be slidable along a predetermined locus, for opening and closing the opening by sliding, wherein the predetermined locus is formed by a groove being formed at an interior of the case, and at least one portion of the shielding member is positioned and guided in the groove,

wherein the groove has at least two portions having different widths, and a portion of the groove which is at a downstream side in a direction in which the shielding member closes the opening has a groove width which is more narrow than a portion of the groove which is at an upstream side.

2. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein said corner portion has a surface which is inclined with respect to both the front wall and the side wall, and the opening is formed at said surface.

3. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the case has an upper plate and a lower plate, each of which is substantially rectangular and has an inner surface, and the case has wall portions including the front wall and the slide wall, which wall portions join together the upper plate and the lower plate such that a space for accommodating the reel is formed between the inner surfaces of the upper plate and the lower plate, and the opening is formed in the wall portions of the upper plate and the lower plate, which wall portions are associated with one corner.

4. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the recording tape has a leader member which is attached to an end portion of the recording tape and which is pulled-out to the drive device.

5. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the shielding member has an opening/closing plate which is curved in a substantial arc-shape having one radius.

6. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 5, wherein the opening/closing plate has, in a direction of sliding, at least two portions having different widths, and, among the portions, a portion which is close to the opening has a wider width than a portion which is far from the opening.
7. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 5, wherein a portion of the opening/closing plate, which portion is positioned at the opening when the opening is closed by the opening/closing plate, has substantially a same width as the opening.
8. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the predetermined locus is a substantial arc-shape having one radius.
9. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 5, wherein the predetermined locus is a substantial arc-shape having one radius, and a radius of the opening/closing plate substantially coincides with the radius of the predetermined locus.
10. (canceled).
11. (previously presented): The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the case has an upper plate and a lower plate, each of which is substantially rectangular and has an inner surface, and opposing walls which project substantially vertically are formed at the inner surfaces of the

upper plate and the lower plate, and at least one portion of the groove is formed by the opposing walls.

12 (canceled).

13. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 12, wherein the groove has a portion whose width changes continuously along the predetermined locus.

14. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 12, wherein the groove has a portion whose width changes in a stepwise manner along the predetermined locus.

15. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 11, wherein the recording tape has a leader member which is attached to an end portion of the recording tape and which is pulled-out to the drive device, and a concave portion for holding the leader member is formed at an interior of the case in a vicinity of the opening, and one of the walls are formed to be continuous with the concave portion.

16. (original): The recording tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein a slit, which is continuous with the opening and extends parallel to the loading direction, is formed in the side wall, and the shielding member has a projecting portion which is exposed from the slit and which can be moved parallel to the loading direction along the slit.